

CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A mobile phone set comprising:

a personal locator beacon transmitter circuit which transmits a beacon that includes an identification code selected from a serial number and a phone number of the mobile phone set; and

a microprocessor coupled to the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit and configured to activate the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit only when there is no mobile phone service available and a user of the mobile phone set requests emergency service; and

a short range transceiver coupled to the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit and the microprocessor such that the beacon includes emergency information received from the short range transceiver.

2. (Previously presented) A phone set according to claim 1 further comprising a global positioning system receiver circuit coupled to the microprocessor, the microprocessor further configured to include location coordinates from the global positioning system receiver circuit with the beacon transmitted by the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit.

3. (Previously presented) A phone set according to claim 1 wherein the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit transmits the beacon at a frequency of approximately 406 MHz.

4. (Previously presented) A phone set according to claim 3 wherein the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit also transmits a homing signal at a frequency selected from approximately 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz.

5. (Original) A phone set according to claim 4 further comprising a microphone coupled to the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit such that the homing signal includes voice transmission.

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method of requesting emergency service on a mobile phone handset comprising the steps of:

determining whether mobile phone service is available; and

when mobile phone service is unavailable and a user of the mobile phone handset requests emergency service, transmitting, using a personal locator beacon transmitter circuit of the mobile phone handset, a beacon that includes an identification code selected from a serial number and a phone number of the mobile phone handset; and

receiving emergency information from a short range transceiver located in the mobile phone handset, wherein the beacon includes the received emergency information.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9, further comprising obtaining global positioning system location coordinates, wherein the beacon includes said global positioning system location coordinates.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9 wherein the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit transmits the beacon at a frequency of approximately 406 MHz.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 9 wherein the personal locator beacon transmitter circuit transmits a homing signal at a frequency selected from approximately 121.5 MHz and 243 MHz.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein voice transmission is included with the homing signal.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 9 ~~16~~, wherein:

the short range transceiver communicates with a black box recorder of a vehicle; and

the beacon includes emergency information received from said black box.

18. (Currently amended) A phone set according to claim 1 8, wherein:
the short range transceiver communicates with a black box recorder of a vehicle; and
the beacon includes emergency information received from said black box.